

Timothy M. Bechtold  
BECHTOLD LAW FIRM, PLLC  
P.O. Box 7051  
Missoula, MT 59807  
(406) 721-1435  
tim@bechtoldlaw.net

Mikaela Koski  
Constance Van Kley  
Rylee Sommers-Flanagan  
UPPER SEVEN LAW  
P.O. Box 31  
Helena, MT 59624  
(406) 298-5859  
mikaela@uppersevenlaw.com  
constance@uppersevenlaw.com  
rylee@uppersevenlaw.com

*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA  
MISSOULA DIVISION

JAMES ELVERUD,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	CV 21-123-M-DWM
	)	
vs.	)	
	)	
LAKE COUNTY, MONTANA;	)	<b>JOINT MOTION FOR</b>
SHERIFF DON BELL; and DOES	)	<b>MEDIATION</b>
1-10,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	
	)	

---

The parties hereby jointly move this Court, pursuant to District of Montana Local Rule 16.5(c), to order mediation before a United States Magistrate Judge and stay the proceedings and deadlines in this matter. Rule 16.5(c) provides that a court may, *sua sponte* or on the motion of a party, order the parties to participate in mediation, select the mediator, and issue appropriate orders to govern the proceedings.

On April 1, 2024, Plaintiff James Elverud filed a Second Amended Complaint. (Doc. 31.) The Court ordered Defendants to respond within 60 days. (Doc. 32.) The parties are currently engaged in and progressing with their settlement negotiations. The parties respectfully request that the Court order the parties to participate in mediation, select a mediator, and issue any other appropriate orders to govern the mediation proceedings.

Respectfully submitted this 31st day of May, 2024.

/s/ Mikaela J. Koski  
Mikaela Koski  
Constance Van Kley  
Rylee Sommers-Flanagan  
UPPER SEVEN LAW

/s/ Timothy M. Bechtold  
Timothy M. Bechtold  
BECHTOLD LAW FIRM

*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

/s/ Jason M. Collins

Jason M. Collins  
Robert C. Lukes  
GARLINGTON, LOHN &  
ROBINSON, PLLP

/s/ Jeffrey R. Kivetz

Jeffrey R. Kivetz  
SOTOS LAW FIRM, P.C.

*Attorneys for Defendants*